

**From:** Neal Lindsay  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it might concern:

I am a network administrator for a small engineering company, and I have been working with computers for half of my life - usually on Microsoft operating systems. I have had the chance to use other operating systems (such as various Unices and Linux) and many have significant advanced features that Windows (even XP) has not come close to. Microsoft has the money to implement such advanced features, but it does not have to because its customers are locked into its operating system. This is probably the single largest problem plaguing the computer world right now, and this case has the opportunity to force Microsoft to open up and let in any companies brave enough to challenge it. That being said, I do not believe that the proposed Microsoft settlement goes far enough. The idea of making Microsoft open up its APIs is a good one, but it is weakened by the restrictions placed upon it. For example, any scrutiny of Microsoft's code is bound to reveal security holes (Microsoft software is traditionally full of them). Microsoft would almost certainly use this as an excuse to not open up more than a token amount of what would be needed for a company to compete with them.

This case is complicated from both a legal standpoint and a computer technology standpoint - to the point that almost no one can understand the proposed settlement. You are not likely to find an impartial voice in all of these public comments - everyone has a stake in the outcome. But please, don't let Microsoft off with just a slap on the wrist. They have continued to violate anti-trust laws even as they were in trial for breaking those same laws. They need some sort of serious penalty AND need to take steps to reverse their ill-gained market shares in many different markets.

Thank you.

- Neal Lindsay  
Network Manager